

ORIGIN/ACTION

ARA-10

RM/R REP AF

ARA EUR FE

NEA CU INR

E P IO

L FBO AID

AGR COM FRB

INT LAB TAR

TR XMB AIR

ARMY CIA NAVY

OSD USIA NSA

NSC

PASS-5

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 23 GUAT

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-526

CONFIDENTIAL

NO.

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Reports July 26 - August 1, 1968

REF : REVIEWED BY *CAJ* DATE *7 OCT 1968*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. The most widely publicized act was the assassination attempt aimed at Mario LOPEZ Villatoro, the secretary of information of the MLN. His car was fired on August 1 by submachine gun-armed youths in a stolen taxi a few blocks from his Zone 13 house. He and a companion, Raul MIDENCE Rivera, were slightly wounded and his bodyguard was more severely wounded. The attackers had reportedly identified themselves to the driver of the stolen cab as being from the FAR.

2. Another attack on a political figure occurred on July 23 when a PID leader in Chiquimula was shot and killed in that Department. Reports differ as to how, or even exactly where in the Department, he was killed.

3. There are also confusing press reports of and denials of other possible assassinations that may or may not have political overtones--if they happened at all. On the negative side were unconfirmed reports in the press that another 13 bodies had been found, this time on July 23 in Nueva Concepcion in the Department of Escuintla. On the positive side, however, were reports that five persons whose bodies had previously been reported as being found in Honduras near the Guatemalan border had turned up safe and sound. They had apparently been in the custody of the Mobile Military Police for questioning.

4. COMMENT: With the numerous reports of "confirmed" and unconfirmed cadavers and their "resurrections," it is hard to get a true reading of the country's temperature. It is clear that the continued reports of violence, accurate or not, help to raise it. Minister of Government MANSILLA Pinto pledged increased vigilance on the part of the security forces to prevent the outbreak of a wave of pre-election violence.

FORM 4-62 DS-323

CONFIDENTIAL

MEIN

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

POL:WNewlin:cam:8/2/68

Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL:MDSmith

Clearances:

POL-1:JWilson